Boy Princess

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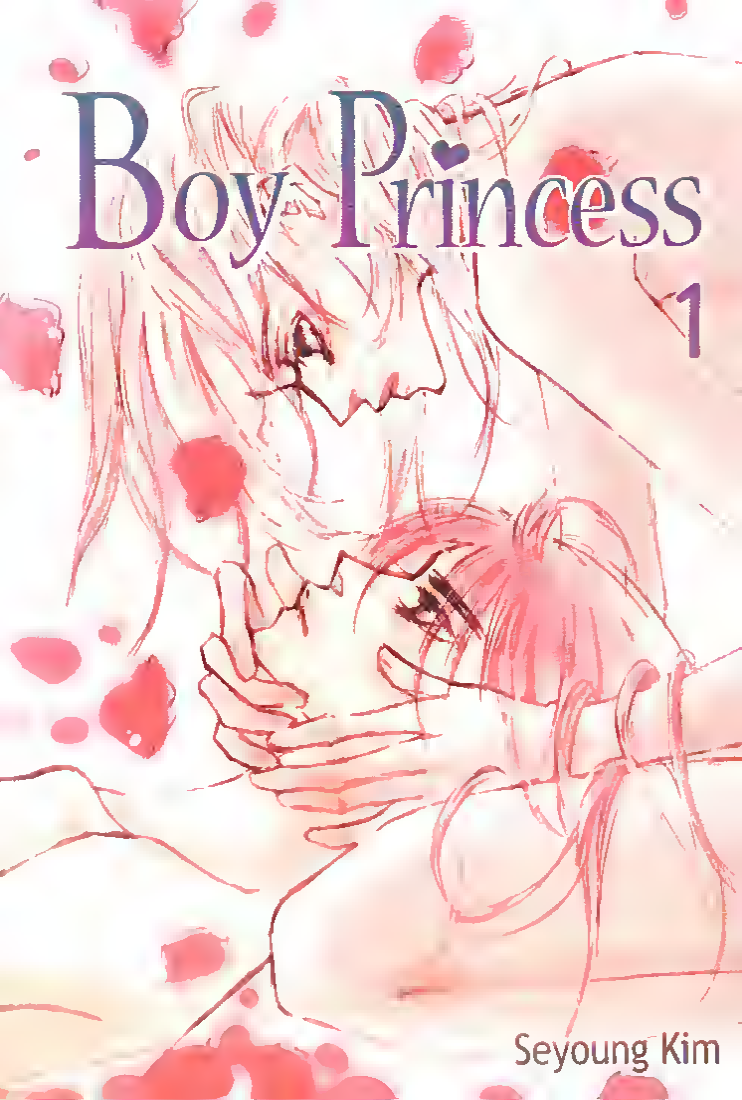
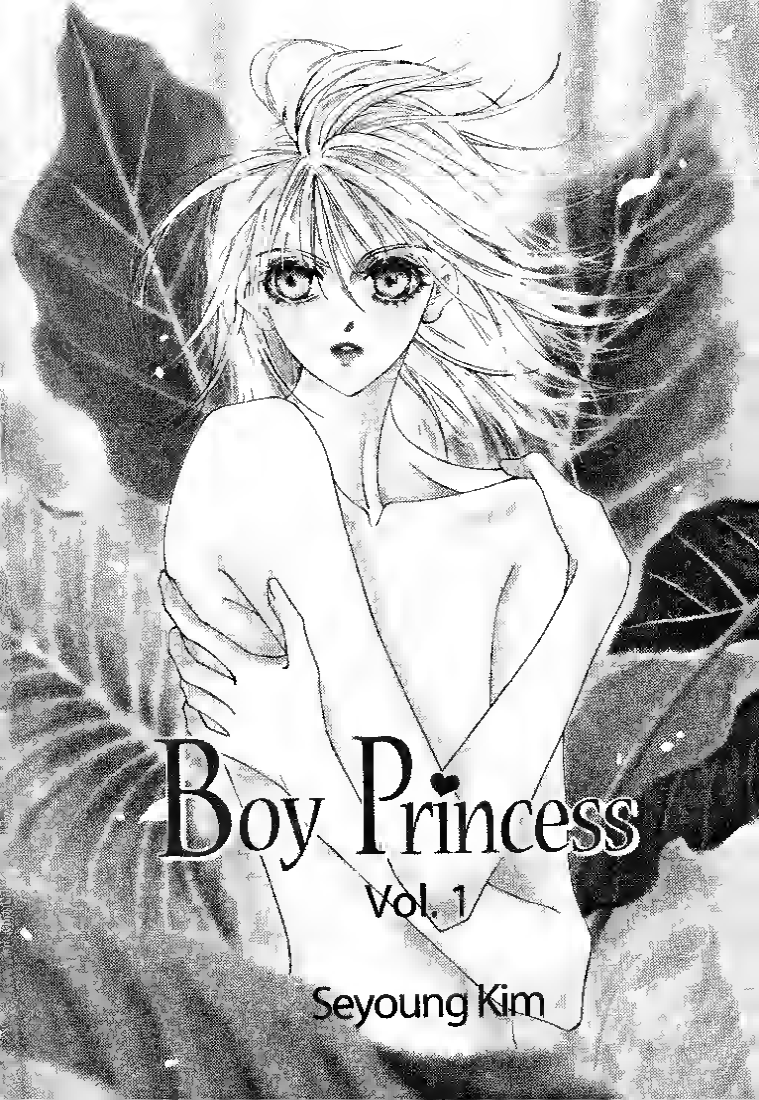
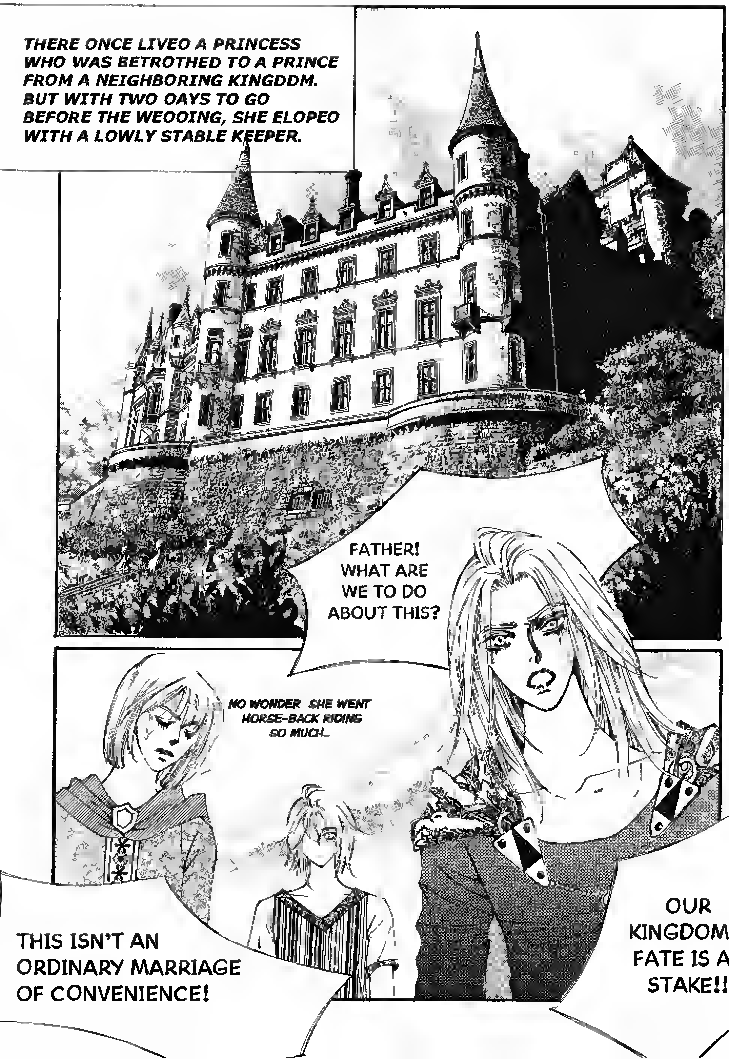
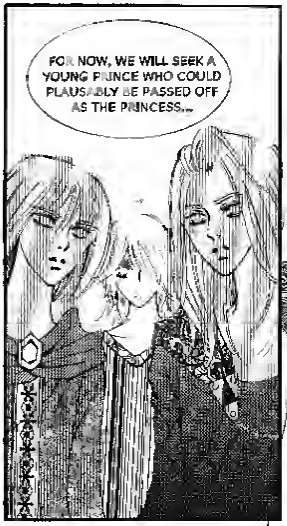


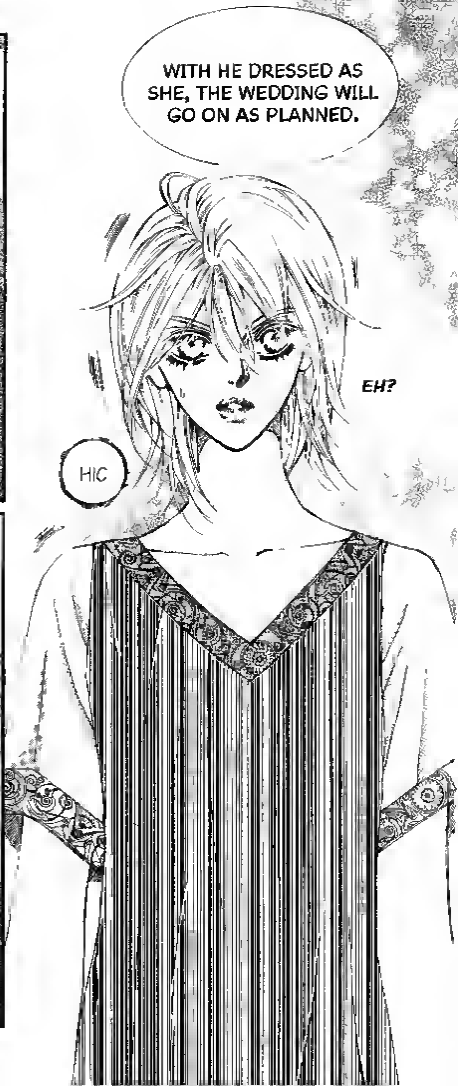
Seyoung Kim


Boy Princess
Vol. 1
Seyoung Kim


THERE ONCE LIVED A PRINCESS WHO WAS BETROTHED TO A PRINCE FROM A NEIGHBORING KINGDOM. BUT WITH TWO DAYS TO GO BEFORE THE WEDDING, SHE ELOPED WITH A LOWLY STABLE KEEPER.
FATHER! WHAT ARE WE TO DO ABOUT THIS?
NO WONDER SHE WENT HORSE-BACK RIDING SO MUCH...
THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE!
OUR KINGDOM'S FATE IS AT STAKE!!

HERE IS MY PLAN


FOR NOW, WE WILL SEEK A YOUNG PRINCE WHO COULD PLAUSIBLY BE PASSED OFF AS THE PRINCESS...


WITH HE DRESSED AS SHE, THE WEDDING WILL GO ON AS PLANNED.
EH?
HIC

Y... YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT, FATHER?
B... BROTHERS?
BROTHER, JUST STAY PUT FOR A WHILE. WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING SOON.
I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU UNDERDEVELOPED
THIS... THIS IS NONSENSE!
SON...
WITH YOUR YOUTH AND BEAUTY, YOU WON'T BE CAUGHT FOR AT LEAST 3 OR 4 YEARS.
OH! PLEASE, BE SERIOUS!!
I KNOW
FORTUNATELY, THE PRINCE IS SAID TO HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN WOMEN SO... YOU'LL GET THROUGH THE NIGHTS JUST FINE.
SON OF A...!! WE WERE GOING TO WED OUR SISTER TO A NE'ER-DO-WELL LIKE THAT?
FATHER! THEY'LL CATCH ON IN NO TIME! FATHER...!!

WAIT-? NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN WOMEN?
THEN... WHAT ABOUT MEN?
...BROTHERS!!
THE PRINCE HAS ARRIVED.

I'VE COME TO ESCORT YOU, PRINCESS.
WHAT! COULD THIS SCARY-LOOKING GUY REALLY BE ?
I AM HONORED TO HAVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LASS AS MY WIFE.
.....

SO YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY, HUH?
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT ALL THIS HAPPENING SO FAST IS THAT NONE OF IT SEEMS REAL
-AND YOU JUST SAY 'QUE SERA SERA'

ANYWAY
THIS POSITION IS
UNCOMFORTABLE ,,
CANT BELIEVE THIS
ROAD IS TOO ROUGH
FOR CARRIAGES
WELL, WELL.
WE HAVE
GUESTS.
?
!

SURE ENOUGH, THE WEDDING PARADE OF THE PRINCESS IS LOADED!
WE'LL GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE IF YOU JUST GIVE US THE GOODS!
AND NOW THAT WHAT A DISGRACE TO OUR KINGDOM (WHAT IS YOUR TRUE PURPOSES FOR SUCH HIS HUMANITY FOR)
PLEASE GO TO THE BACK AND WAIT FOR ME.
I'LL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.
NOW I SEE WHY I WAS SCARED OF THIS MAN

THE SMELL OF BLOOD - HE GAVE OFF THE SCENT OF A WARRIOR.
COURTEOUS BUT COLD

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, ELENA. GUYS LIKE THAT
CAN'T BE INTERESTED IN WOMEN OR MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE.
HE'S LIKE A WALKING SWORD-FIGHTING MANUAL
KLANG
KLANG...
THIS WAY PRINCESS! WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
SHUT UP! MAKE A SOUND AND YOU ALL GET SLAIN
GAAAH.
PAFF
?!
I'VE HAD TRAINING IN SWORD FIGHTING, TOO.

DOES YOUR KINGDOM TEACH SWORDSMANSHIP EVEN TO WOMEN?
EP...!
OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS. --;
- !
WE MUST AT LEAST BE ABLE TO PROTECT OURSELVES AS SUCH.

IT'S AS IF
?
YOU'RE DECLARING A WAR.

SO THAT EVEN WHEN I TOUCH YOUR LIPS,
I SHOULD RISK MY LIFE...
- !

!
WE MUST HURRY AFTER OUR LONG DELAY-.
WAIT A MINUTE... THIS REALLY IS
AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION !!
(JUST REALIZED) SHUDDER

WHY, YOU IRRESPONSIBLE FAMILY! DO YOU EVEN HAVE A PLAN?
BROTHER!
DON'T RUN, PRINCESS! YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF
HUH? THERE WAS A PRINCESS?
I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG FOR YOU.
SISTER IS BESIDE HERSELF. HE WAS GONE ONLY FOR A DAY...

INDEED~
YOU SEEM AS MODEST AS A MOUNTAINSIDE KINGDOM BORN~.
AH! SHE'S C UTE
THUMP--
WHAT?!
GOODNESS~ AND YOU'RE NOT THAT BRIGHT EITHER.
AHAHAHA
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!
A SCARY HUSBAND AND AN ILL-TEMPERED SISTER-IN-LAW
THIS IS TRULY A WOMAN'S LIFE

DAMN!! HOW CAN THIS BE!
IT S ACTUALLY HAPPENED!
WHAT AM I TO DO NOW?!!

IN THAT GLASS
I'VE MIXED IN A STRONG SLEEPING POTION...
BUT WILL HE DRINK IT?
KADOOM..
KAHLUMP

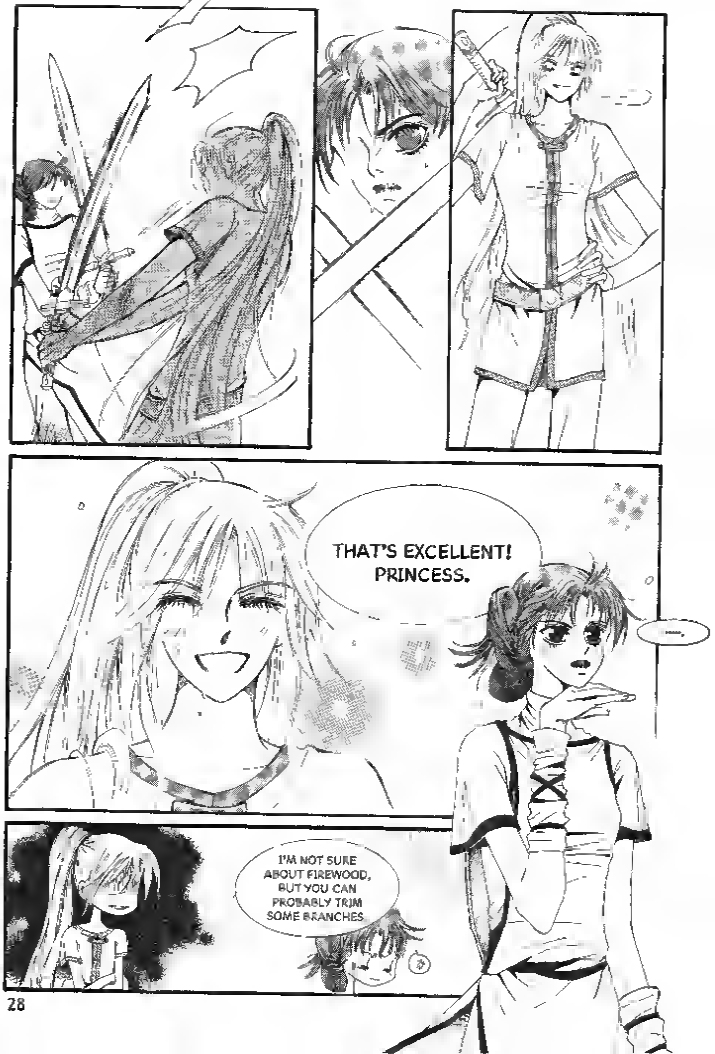
...UH, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE DRINK...
!
EASE YOUR MIND, MY LADY. I DON'T WANT TO RISK MY LIFE JUST TO GET INSIDE YOUR BED.
DAMN...
.....

MAY I MAKE A PROPOSITION REASONABLE FOR THE BOTH OF US?
?
GAAAHH.
DAMMIT~!! WHAT IS REASONABLE ABOUT THIS?

COME ON UP, PRINCESS.
MAN, THAT SCREAMING HAS SHATTERED MY EARDRUMS
WHAT BARBARIC STRENGTH! I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN CHOPPING FIREWOOD INSTEAD OF EMBROIDERING.
YES~ AS YOU SAID SINCE IT'S UP IN THE MOUNTAINS~.
YOU REALLY AREN'T THAT CUTE AT ALL
IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT VISITING YOUR BED CHAMBER WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION, WOULD YOU TEACH PRINCESS REINY HOW TO USE A SWORD?
HMPH HOW CUNNING

MY GOODNESS! PRINCE, I MEAN, PRINCESS!! YOU CAN'T BE DRESSED LIKE THAT!
DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
WHAT?
THIS IS A COMPLEX KINGDOM, HE IS A DIRECT BLOOD HEIR,
SO YOU HEARD THEY SAY HE TOOK OFF AFTER SOME INVADERS AT THE BORDER.
STILL YOU MUST BE CAUTIOUS AT ALL TIMES.
DARN IT~ THEN I DID ALL THAT FOR NOTHING~!
BUT BECAUSE HE WAS THE SECOND BORN, HE IS BUT SECOND IN LINE FOR THE THRONE, ONLY PRINCESS REINY HAS THE SAME MOTHER AND ALL OF THE OTHERS WERE BORN BY DIFFERENT WOMEN

THEY MUST HAVE HAD HIM MARRY YOU IN ORDER TO DECREASE HIS POWER.
BECAUSE WE ARE ONLY A SMALL KINGDOM..
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THEIR MOTHER, THE PREVIOUS QUEEN... WAS POISONED.
HOW WICKED..
HENCE THE SWORDSMANSHIP
THIS IS A DANGEROUS KINGDOM
HEY, LITTLE BROTHER!! LOOK!
I CAN'T TELL IF THIS THING CAN DANCE IT!
BROTHER...
HOW CAN YOU LIVE WITH YOURSELVES AFTER PUTTING ME IN THIS DEATH TRAP?
KLANG
KLANG


THAT'S EXCELLENT! PRINCESS.
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT FIREWOOD, BUT YOU CAN PROBABLY TRIM SOME BRANCHES.

YOU ARE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, MASTER.
OUR CAPRICIOUS LADY RATHER SEEMS TO LIKE YOU.
—
!
JUST WHEN DID HE COME?
OH, YOU ARE BACK?
OHH! TODAY IS...
I'D BETTER RUN NOW IMMINENT DANGER-
INDEED, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL. STILL TENSE, AVERTING YOUR EYES, TRYING TO AVOID ME.
THAT

UPSETS ME..
-THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU PROM-

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TEST THIS SWORD?
AS YOU WISH.
HNH--?!!

THE HAND HOLDING THE SWORD IS FREE.
ARRRGH~!!
?
BROTHERS!
BAW...
TUMBLE
TUMBLE..

!
.....
.....
AH, DAMN...
I'M FINISHED! SO SOON-
I GUESS YOU CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN.

HINH?
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN-?
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE A PRINCE OR PRINCESS SINCE THE WEDDING WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A CONTRACT.
HO... HOLD ON! ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULD STILL PLAY PRINCESS EVEN AFTER BLOWING MY COVER?

YOU DARE ASK ME THAT? WHEN IT WAS YOU WHO CONSPIRED AGAINST ME-?
YOU CAN REMAIN THAT WAY WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
AND- WHAT WERE YOU THINKING USING SOMETHING SO HARD LIKE AN APPLE?
I WAS IN A HURRY, THAT'S ALL. *YOU* WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO EAT IT~
ONLY BECAUSE I LOST ALL MY ENERGY RISKING MY LIFE FOR A KISS

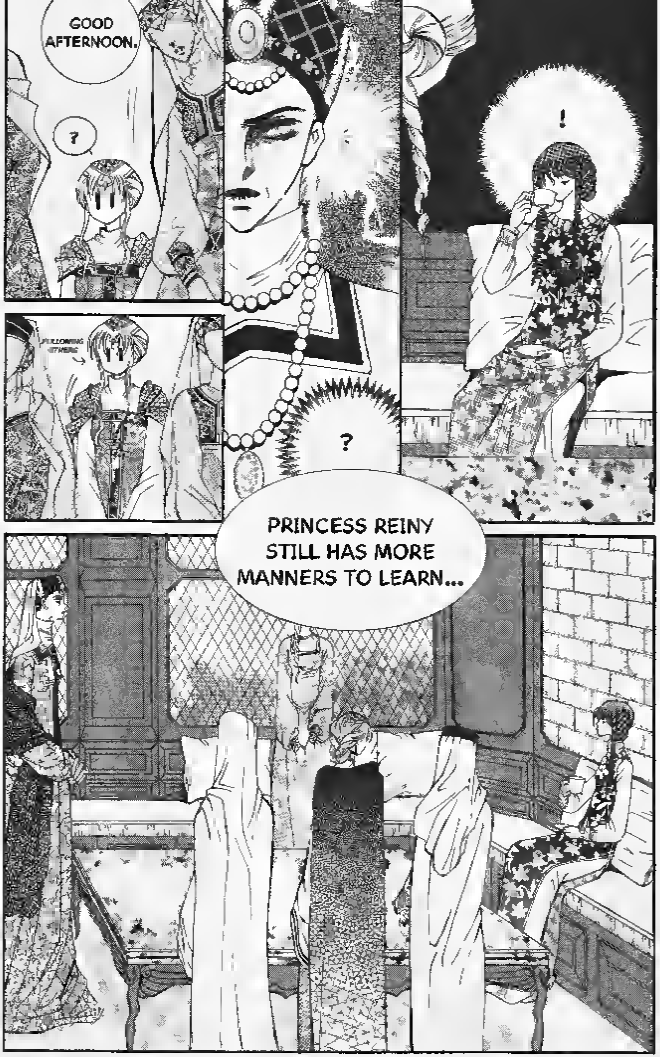
WHAT?
HOW... YOU SHAMELESS ..!!
THIS IS AN ATTEMPTED RAPE, YA KNOW?

O MY! THE PRINCE HAS SENT A BASKET FULL OF APPLES.
... THROW THEM OUT!

Before
CUNNING AND IRRESPONSIBLE BROTHERS
IT SUITS YOU SO PERFECTLY
ENOUGH, BROTHER
After

I AM A PRINCE, A MALE, A BOY! BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE DRESSED AS A WOMAN AND MADE MYSELF A PRINCESS. ALL TO BE WED IN THE PLACE OF MY ELOPED SISTER....
UHHH
PLEASE COME IN. ISN'T THIS OUR FIRST OFFICIAL INTRODUCTION SINCE YOUR WEDDING?
SISTER-IN-LAW-TO-BE
SISTER-IN-LAW
SISTER-IN-LAW-TO-BE
SISTER-IN-LAW
THAT FUSSY PRINCESS ALONE IS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE AND WHAT IS UP WITH THIS GANG?
BUT I BLEW MY COVER TO MY HUSBAND(?) SOON AFTER. THANKS TO HIS SILENCE, I'M STILL PLAYING THIS PRINCESS ROLE JUST GREAT!!
OH, YES...
WE HAVE THESE OCCASIONAL GET-TOGETHERS TO CHAT TO RELIEVE OUR LONELINESS AND BOREDOM, ALL THANKS TO OUR MEN'S INDIFFERENCE.

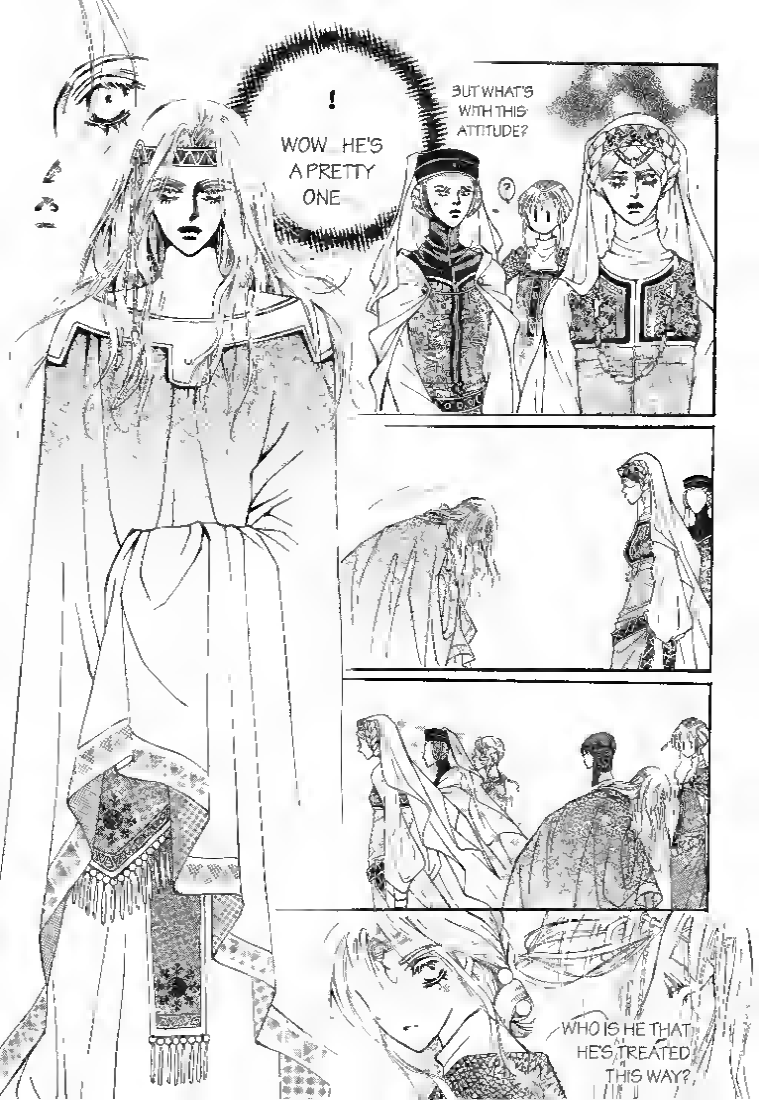
WHAT'S UP WITH THESE CLUCKING HENS~ DON'T THEY HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO? WHY ARE THEY PRETENDING TO BE LIKE YOUNG WIDOWS?
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
CERTAINLY.
IT SEEMS YOU ARE ALL HERE. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY TARDINESS.
WHAT...? THERE'S MORE?
!
SHE'S A SCARY LOOKING WOMAN
YIKES~
WHO COULD SHE BE?


GOOD AFTERNOON.
?
FOLLOWING OTHERS.
?
!
PRINCESS REINY STILL HAS MORE MANNERS TO LEARN...

OH, THAT. I AM SAVING THAT FOR THE FUTURE QUEEN WHO WILL SOMEDAY JOIN US.
MOTHER, PLEASE UNDERSTAND. PRINCESS REINY IS STILL YOUNG, ISN'T SHE?
MOTHER?
I HEAR PRINCE JED IS ESTRANGED FROM PRINCESS ELENA EVEN THOUGH IT'S THEIR HONEYMOON.
AH THAT WOMAN MUST BE THE MOTHER OF THE OLDEST PRINCE
IT MUST BE HARD ON YOU ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU AREN'T EVEN FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLACE.
OH SHE'S TALKING ABOUT ME?

WAIT-? THIS OLD BAG IS?!!!
SHE'S VIOLATING MY PRIVACY IN A TWISTED WAY.
EVERYONE KEEP IN MIND THAT WE'LL NEED MANY SUCCESSORS FOR THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.
I ASK... AND OF COURSE, THE CROWN PRINCE COUPLE STILL HAS NO CHILDREN AFTER 2 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, WELL...
.....
SUCH AN EVIL WOMAN SHE IS-
IN HONOR OF PRINCE JED'S WEDDING, WE'LL SOON BE HOSTING A SWORD FIGHTING TOURNAMENT. EVERY PRINCE BESIDES THE CROWN PRINCE WILL BE ATTENDING.

A SWORDSMANSHIP TOURNAMENT?
SO, PREPARE AN EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEF OR A SCARF. IT SHALL SERVE AS PROOF THAT YOU ARE THEIR LADIES.
HUKK!!
EMBROIDERY?
LAST TIME IT WAS SWORD FIGHTING. NOW EMBROIDERY?
CRAP!
?
FEEBLE


!
WOW HE'S A PRETTY ONE
BUT WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE?
?
WHO IS HE THAT HE'S TREATED THIS WAY?

GOOD DAY~
GOOD DAY~
HE IS THE SON OF THE HEROT TRIBE'S LEADER. THEY WORK WITH HERBS.
HE HAS TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL HE TURNS 20, AND THE SUPPOSED PRETEXT IS "STUDYING ABROAD."
WELL, YOU CAN ASSUME THAT HE'S IN THE SAME SITUATION AS YOU.
.....
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE CONSIDERED A JOKE
MAKE SURE YOU OPEN YOUR EYES WIDE
WHAT NOW?
RIGHT I'M A PLEDGE SO?!

TUCK YOUR CHIN DOWN AND LOOK RIGHT INTO THEIR EYES.
AND BE DIRECT WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.
!
AH, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, LITTLE PRINCESS
AH-!
MY BROTHER!
BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIM

SPECIAL BROTHER AND SISTER
?
THOSE JERKS~!!
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT ME? MAKING ME ALL NERVOUS WHAT'S WITH THAT LAUGH?
PSH! THAT'S A "BROTHER-SISTER SIBLING COMPLEX"

YOU ASKED FOR ME?
SLASH
DID YOU PREPARE THE DRUG I ASKED FOR?
...YES.
YOU'VE BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB ON THE CROWN PRINCE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO EMPOWER THE CROWN PRINCESS BY LETTING HER HAVE A SUCCESSOR SO SOON.
.....
BUT PRINCE JED IS A DIFFERENT STORY. WE MUST DO SOMETHING BEFORE HIS SUCCESSOR IS BORN.

THAT PRINCESS IS .
?
IT' S NOTHING.
THEN, UNTIL YOU ASK FOR ME AGAIN...
DAMN SO I SHOULD START SEWING FIRST?!
DEAR ME! YOU... YOUR HIGHNESS! I RECEIVED NO PRIOR NOTICE-!!
UH.. UM.. THE PRINCESS IS ASLEEP ALREAD... THE PRINCESS IS-
IN THE MIDDLE OF NANNY'S CRASH COURSE IN EMBROIDERY..
POOR NANNY! SHE'S GONNA LOSE HER VOICE
I ALREADY HEARD YOU

OOPS... SIRE.
I WENT TO BED EARLY NOT KNOWING YOU WERE COMING.
...COME IN, PLEASE.
THE WINE!
DON'T WORRY, I GOT IT.
WHAT WAS YOUR NANNY SAYING JUST NOW?

WHAT IS THIS! YOU SCARED ME!
GET AWAY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO "COME IN PLEASE."
WHAT A HEARTLESS #RIDE YOU ARE
DON T COPY ME!
SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT PUTING SLEEPING POTION IN YOUR WINE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'VE STARTED THIS THING WITH A VERY FLIMSY PLAN.
IF YOU CAN CALL IT A PLAN.
IT'S JUST THAT NO ONE KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A DON JUAN WHO COMES ONTO WOMEN LIKE AN ANIMAL, DAMN IT.
WHAT? NOT INTERESTED IN WOMEN? OH, PLEASE~

THAT STRANGE SMILE AGAIN
WHY ARE YOU HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN? YOU SCARED THE HECK OUT OF MY NANNY
BECAUSE OF SOME LITTLE PRINCESS
WHO IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU BEING RIDICULED AS AN UNLOVED BRIDE.
!
PRINCESS REINY!
OH, THIS AFTERNOON...
HOW SWEET~
THAT FRESH PRINCESS HAD A SWEET SIDE
SHOULD, SHOULD I
DATE PRINCESS REINY AFTER I LEAVE YOU?

HUKK!
WHAT THE? WHAT'S WITH THAT WEIRD EXPRESSION?
..IT ...IT WAS A JOKE.
BLUSH
GOSH~ WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR SISTER, IT'S REAL LOVE ALL THE WAY.
...BETTER GET TO SLEEP.
.....

SLEEP-
RIGHT
HE CAME
TO SLEE!"
WHAT?
SAY IT FAST,
I'M TIRED.
EEP"!
IS HE GOING TO
GO TO SLEEP
LIKE THAT?
RIGHT
I SHOULD
TELL HIM
YOU
KNOW, I.
WHAT NERVE!
IT'S MY BED"
CRASH
BOOM
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
KWUMP
KWUMP
YOU
KNOW,
I HAVE
BAD
SLEEPING
HABITS...
THAT'S WHY
MY BROTHERS
DON'T EVEN LET ME
IN ANYMORE WHEN
IT THUNDERS AND
LIGHTENS...
WILL YOU BE
ALRIGHT WITH
THAT?

PBTBT
TAP..
TAP
SO IT IS... YOU SLEEP LIKE A BABY

MORNING KISS ON
THE FOREHEAD
AND GOOD-NIGHT KISS
...?
- ON THE LIPS
GOOD-NIGHT

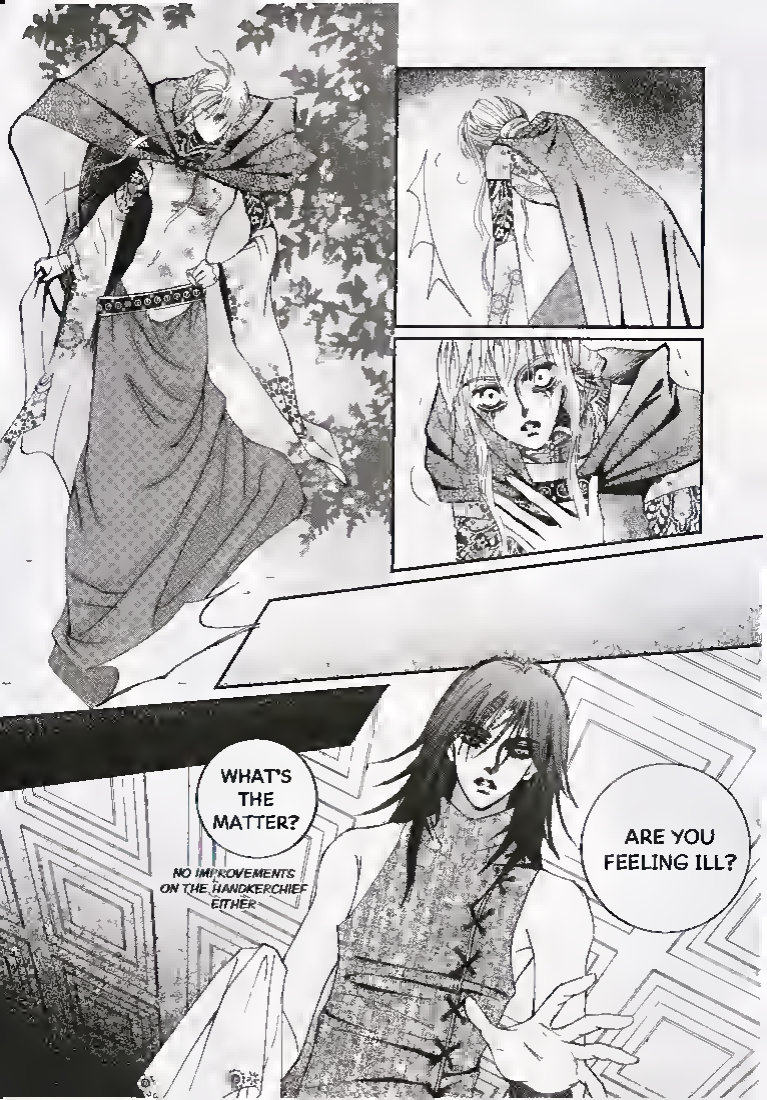
I PREPARED THE TEA TODAY. IT'S A SPECIALTY FROM A FAR AWAY LAND.
OH, NO...
IT'S RATHER AROMATIC
WORKING HARD
11

-PRINCESS?
PRINCESS ELENA-
AH, YES..
YOU'RE WORKING HARD. HAVE SOME TEA AND TAKE YOUR TIME.
-SOMETHING IS...
YES.
WAIT.
GULP
GULP
KAGHK
SO HOT
IDIOT
IT SHOULD BE OK. EVERYONE HAD THE SAME TEA.
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW I COULD'VE SMEARED IT INSIDE THE CUP ALREADY
AREN'T YOU A CAREFUL LITTLE PUSSY CAT

—.
A CAT?
-IT'S A LION.
...
AND WHAT WAS YOUR NANNY DOING?
I JUST NEED TO FINISH UP THE BOTTOM SEAM. I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU TONIGHT. YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?
UH... UM..
DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP.
SEE YOU LATER!
TA-DA
DA-DA
IT'S FASTER TO GO THROUGH THE FOREST

-?
-?WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
SHOULD I SAY HI?
UHH...
AKK, IT'S THE APOTHECARY
?

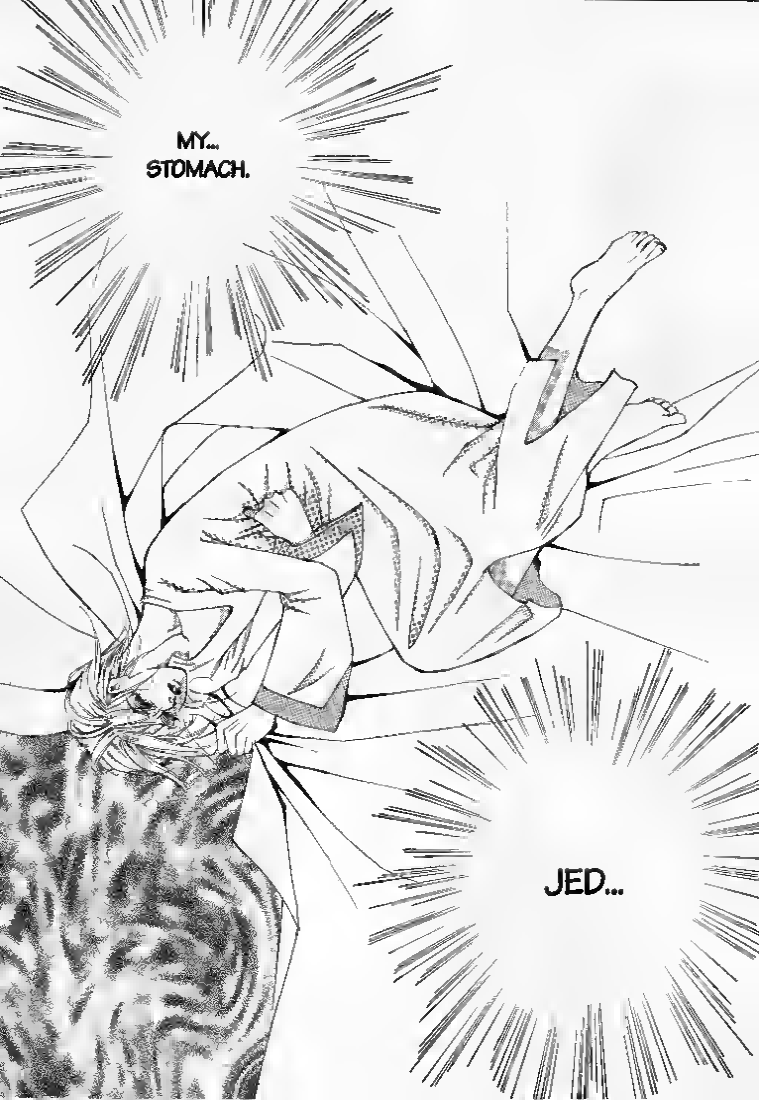
THE CROWN PRINCE?
!

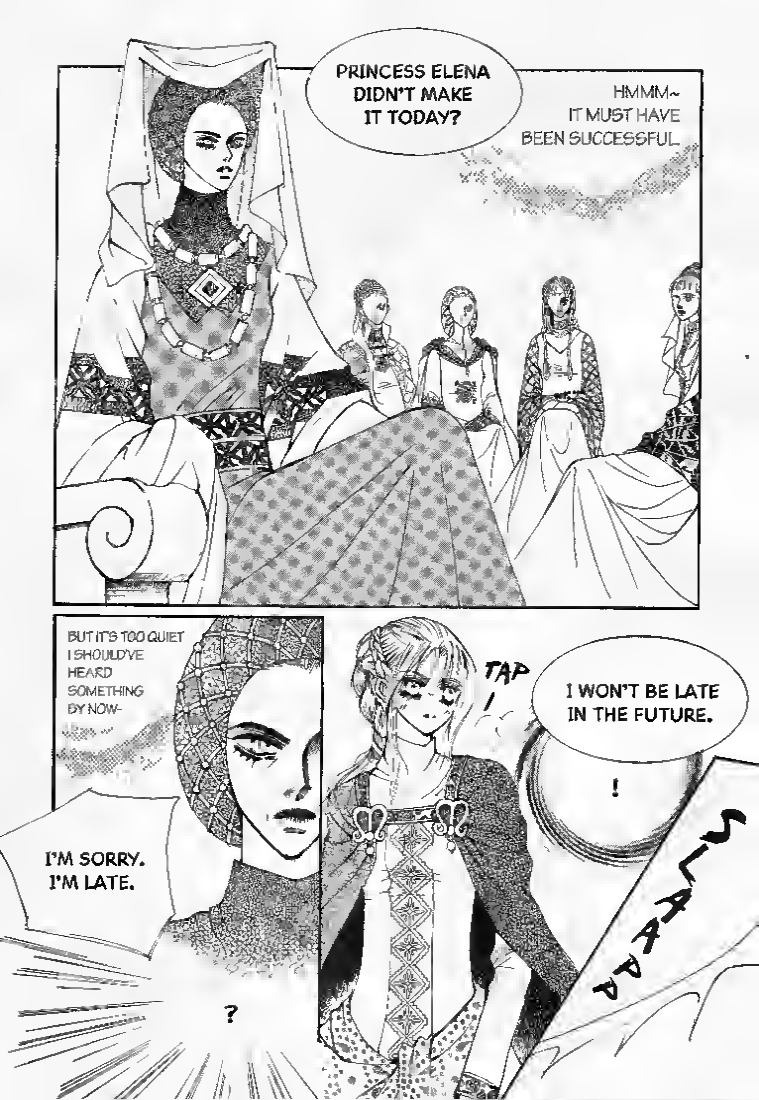

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NO IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HANDKERCHIEF EITHER
ARE YOU FEELING ILL?

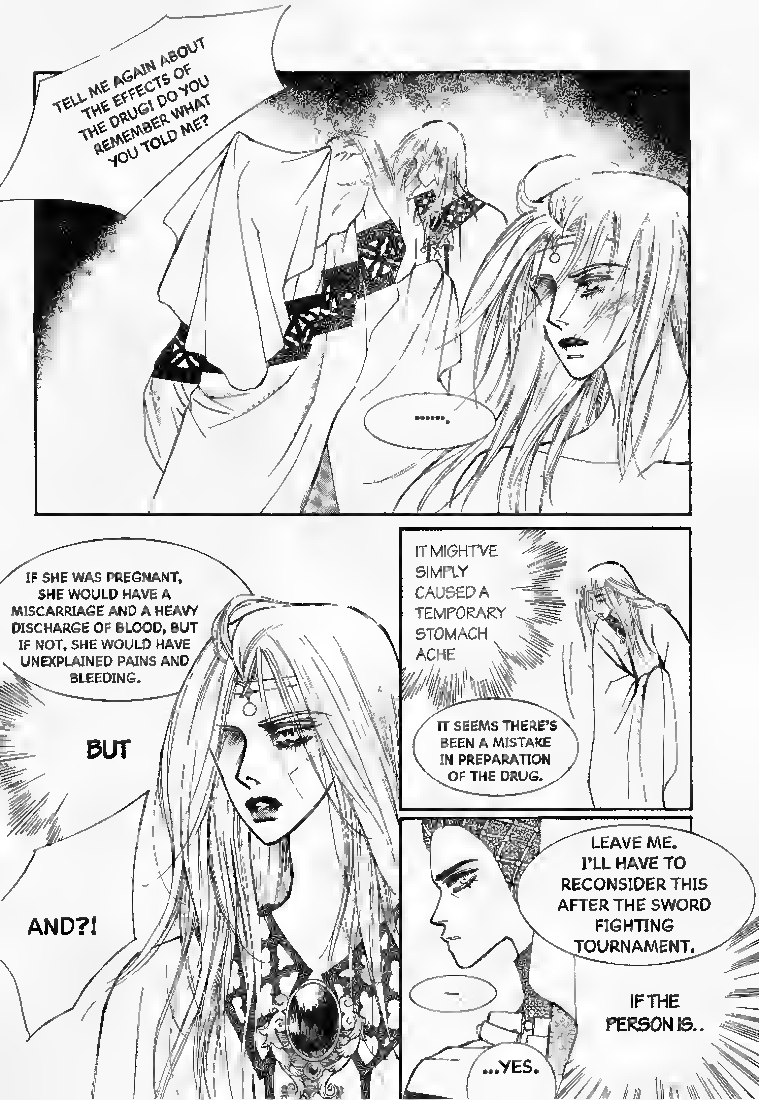
DON'T TOUCH ME!
GET AWAY-!
I'M SCARED
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE EITHER!
TELL ME JUST WHY YOU'RE ACTING THIS WAY WHILE I STILL HAVE SOME PATIENCE LEFT.
FLINCH

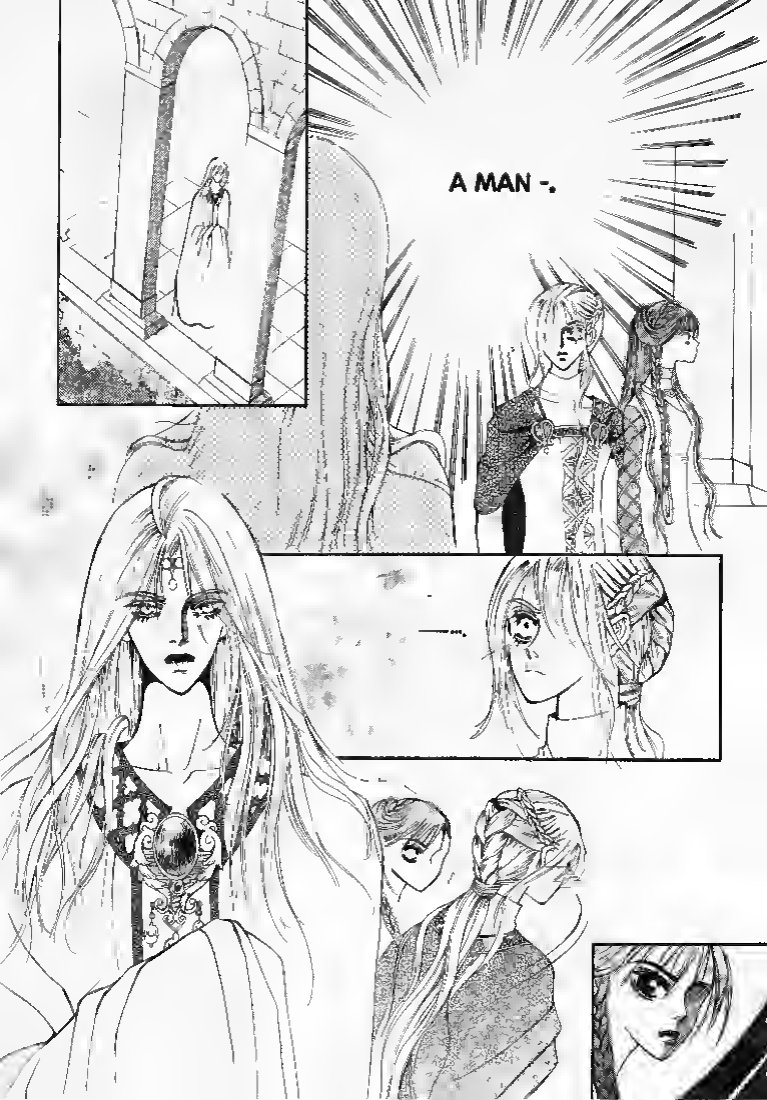
I SAW YOUR BROTHER AND THE APOTHECARY IN THE FOREST.
NOW, I HATE YOU, YOU SCARE ME!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE!
!

STUMP STUMP
WHAM...
AHH...
JED!
?


MY...
STOMACH.
JED...


PRINCESS ELENA DIDN'T MAKE IT TODAY?
HMMM~ IT MUST HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.
BUT IT'S TOO QUIET I SHOULD'VE HEARD SOMETHING BY NOW-
I'M SORRY. I'M LATE.
?
TAP!
I WON'T BE LATE IN THE FUTURE.
!
SWAAA

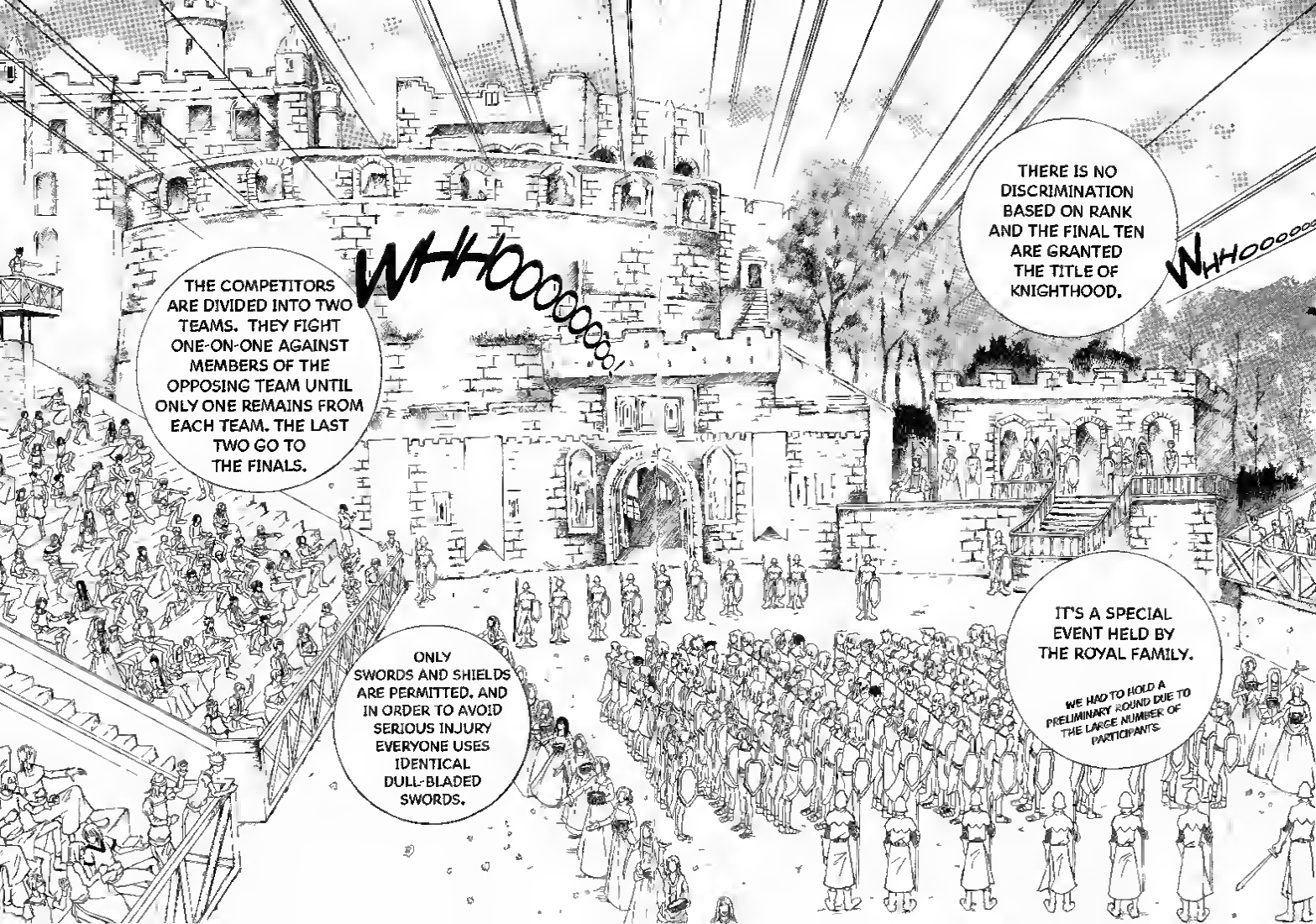

TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE DRUG! DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME?
.....
IT MIGHTVE SIMPLY CAUSED A TEMPORARY STOMACH ACHE
IT SEEMS THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE IN PREPARATION OF THE DRUG.
IF SHE WAS PREGNANT, SHE WOULD HAVE A MISCARRIAGE AND A HEAVY DISCHARGE OF BLOOD, BUT IF NOT, SHE WOULD HAVE UNEXPLAINED PAINS AND BLEEDING.
BUT
AND?!
LEAVE ME. I'LL HAVE TO RECONSIDER THIS AFTER THE SWORD FIGHTING TOURNAMENT.
IF THE PERSON IS..
...YES.


A MAN -.
——...

DON'T YOU WANT TO STOP BY AND SEE MY BROTHER?
ALTHOUGH HE'S BUSY PREPARING FOR THE TOURNAMENT.
HE'S PROBABLY ANGRY WITH ME.
CLANK
CLANK
-SO I CAME ALONE. SHE WAS SHAKING HER HEAD WITH HER LOBSTER FACE.
SURE THAT APOTHECARY IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT- IT CAN'T BE...
AM I OVERREACTING?
-BROTHER?

YOU SHOULD GO TO BED NOW.
BUT STILL, I THOUGHT HE'D STOP BY TONIGHT SINCE THE TOURNAMENT IS TOMORROW... HE HASN'T DROPPED BY MUCH LATELY.
NOW I HATE YOU YOU SCARE ME! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE!
A NARROW-MINDED JERK! I KNOW I WAS LITTLE HARSH BUT I PANICKED CAN'T HE EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT?

BUT STILL
IT HAUNTS ME DAY AND NIGHT
...I'M SCARED TO FACE HIM
WOW!
HURRY AND SIT.
GUYS LIKE THAT ARE NO FUN WHEN THEY GET MAD. WHAT IF I GET SICK FROM NERVES AND HAVE ANOTHER STOMACH ACHE?


WHOOOOOOOO!
THE COMPETITORS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO TEAMS. THEY FIGHT ONE-ON-ONE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSING TEAM UNTIL ONLY ONE REMAINS FROM EACH TEAM. THE LAST TWO GO TO THE FINALS.
ONLY SWORDS AND SHIELDS ARE PERMITTED. AND IN ORDER TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY EVERYONE USES IDENTICAL DULL-BLADED SWORDS.
THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RANK AND THE FINAL TEN ARE GRANTED THE TITLE OF KNIGHTHOOD.
WHHOOOOOO
IT'S A SPECIAL EVENT HELD BY THE ROYAL FAMILY.
WE HAD TO HOLD A PRELIMINARY ROUND DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

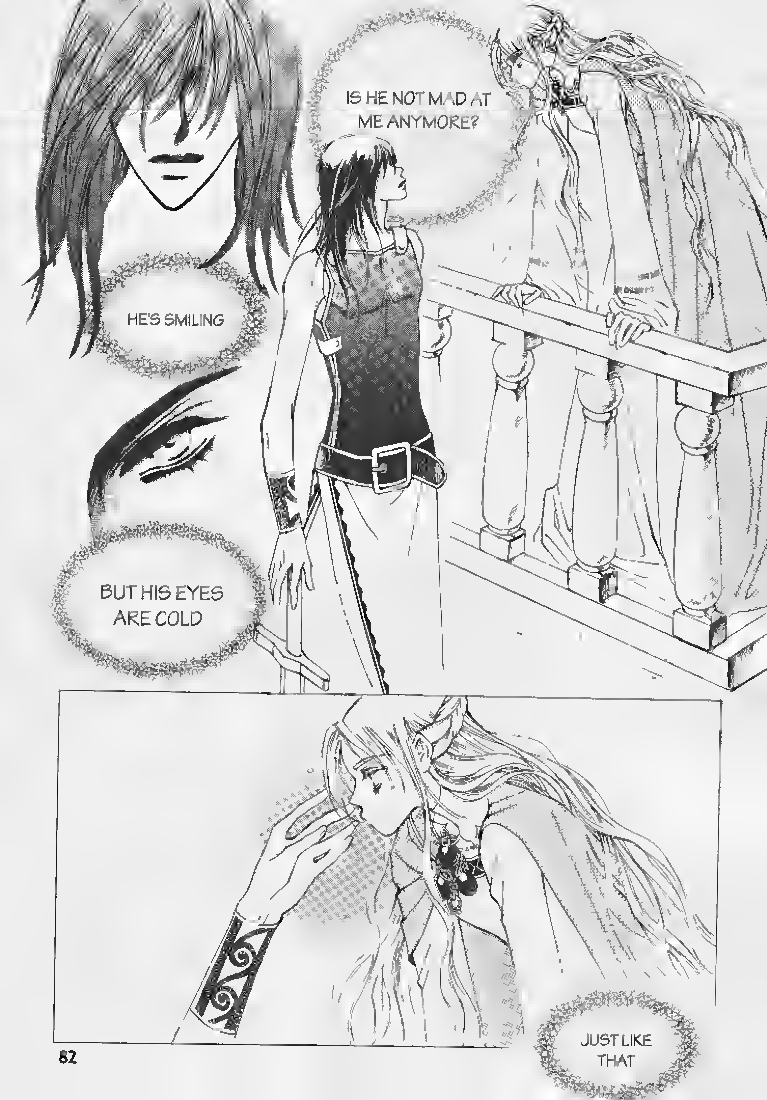
IT ENDS WITH A KISS BETWEEN THE WINNER AND HIS LADY.
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S FOR THE CROWD.
BY THE WAY, I WAS THE LADY OF THE LAST WINNER.
AHH...!
BUT IT'LL BE YOU THIS YEAR.
?

!
...!
—.
THROB!
WHAT A NARROW MINDED JERK!

...

Kiss
Kiss
Kiss
HUNH?

?
FLUTTER
AH HA HA
WHAT TERRIBLE PUBLIC HUMILIATION.
SO YOU USED IT FOR THIS?
GO DOWN TO THAT PLATFORM.
DAMN..
DAMN..


IS HE NOT MAD AT ME ANYMORE?
HE'S SMILING
BUT HIS EYES ARE COLD
JUST LIKE THAT

WITHOUT CLOSING OUR EYES
WE KISSED
THE MOST TRAGIC AND COLD KISS

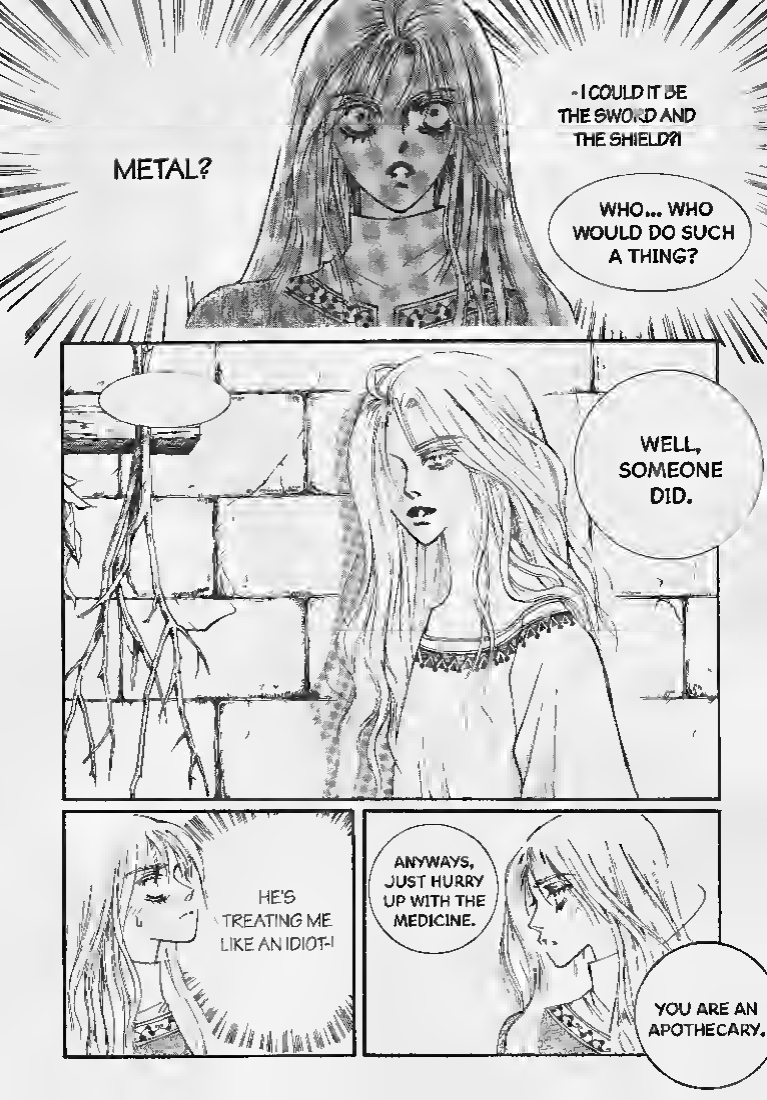
?!
AND
I
DRIP
THE MOST
PAINFUL
WHY

IS HE SO MAD?
WAS I THAT AWFUL?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
DON'T WAIT UP.
FINE! I STARTED IT, SO I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT
CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER!
UM, I WAS TOLD NOT TO LET ANYONE IN.
I'M HIS WI... WIFE.
(DAMN!)

——...
JED-
JED?
JED!
WHAM
?
JED?!

JED!
YOU'RE BURNING UP!
WHAT COULD IT BE?
JED-.
...
...AH, THIS WAY OR THAT WAY
NOTHING BUT AWKWARD PROVOCATIONS...
...I'M JUST TRYING TO KEEP QUIET...

...MOTHER.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN INFECTED THROUGH THE SKIN. PROBABLY-
IT SEEMS TO BE THE KIND THAT REACTS IF SMEARED ON METAL—


METAL?
- I COULD IT BE THE SWORD AND THE SHIELD?!
WHO... WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
WELL, SOMEONE DID.
HE'S TREATING ME LIKE AN IDIOT-!
ANYWAYS, JUST HURRY UP WITH THE MEDICINE.
YOU ARE AN APOTHECARY.

WHAT IF
I WERE TO GIVE YOU POISONED MEDICINE, PRINCE?
THEN, I'LL DRINK IT FIRST.

——.
SINCE HE HAS BEEN TAKING SMALL QUANTITIES OF POISON FOR SOME TIME, IT PROBABLY WON'T KILL HIM.
BUT THIS WILL SPEED UP THE RECOVERY.
HERE- DILUTE IT IN WATER. THEN HAVE HIM DRINK IT.
.....
THANKS.
!
THIS IS FOR THE COST OF THE MEDICINE.

BLUSH
BAM
THAT PRINCE...
IS HE A HELP OR HINDRANCE?
IN MAKING JED KING

HE DRANK IT
JED! DON'T YOU DIE ON ME- IT WAS MY FAULT I'M SORRY...
I DON'T WANT TO BE A WIDOW
WHY DON'T YOU OPEN YOUR EYES? WHAT IF THAT FAKE APOTHECARY REALLY GAVE US POISON?
?
LOOKS AS IF HE'S THINKING SOMETHING'S NOT QUITE COMFORTABLE.
HUH ..? MY BODY FEELS HEAV ?

!
WHERE DOES THIS RABBIT THINK HE'S SLEEPING SO FEARLESSLY?

THEN THAT WASN'T A DREAM EITH ?
DAMN IT, I REVEALED _ SOMETHING EMBARRASSING
NNN NNN..
BAWWW~
I WAS SO FRIGHTENED. TERRIFIED~. I CAME TO FORGIVE YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A NARROW-MINDED JERK~
A NARROW...?
JED!! YOU AREN'T DEAD!
.....
HEY... YOU'RE SCARING ME. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
RIGHT HE'S STILL A LITTLE KID

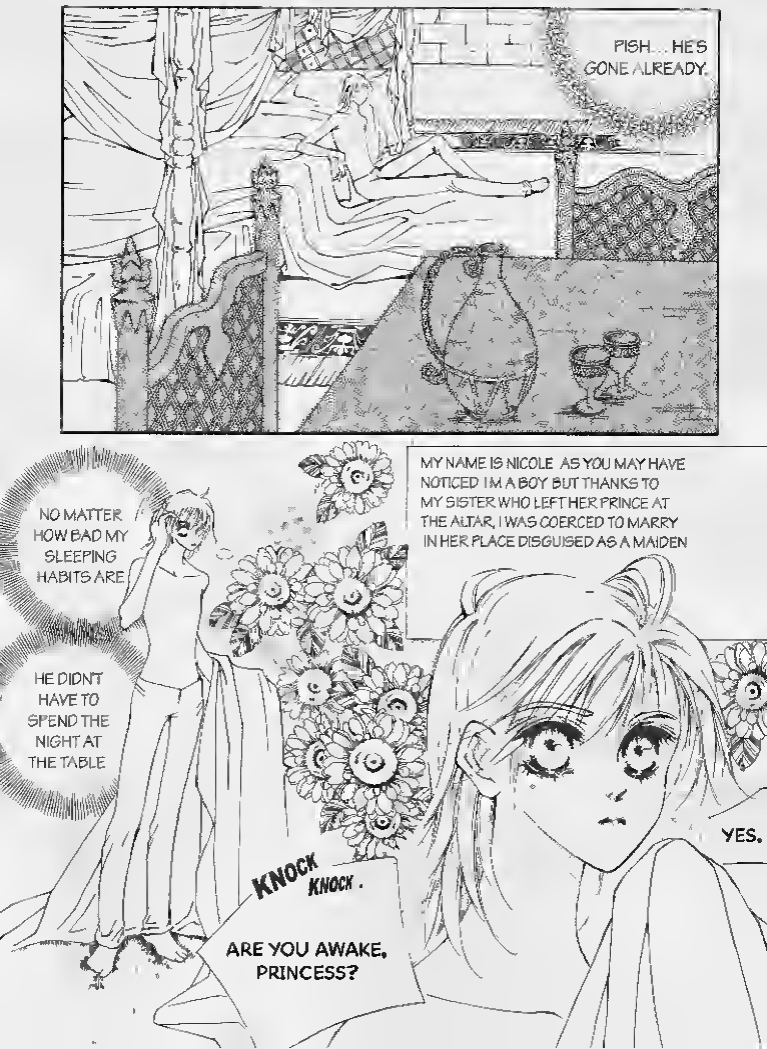
SHALL WE DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME?
...?
GOOD-NIGHT KISS ON THE LIPS AND MORNING KISS
GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS-
ON THE FOREHEAD
YES, YOU TOO.
HE HE
YAY! HE'S NOT MAD AT ME ANYMORE!
.....

I WANTED TO
BE LIKE THAT
PERSON-
I THOUGHT.
STRONG
LIKE THAT.

THOUGHT
'I WANT TO BE A MAN
LIKE HIM.'

I ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A BROTHER LIKE HIM!
UM~
AND US?
THE ELDEST PLAYBOY BROTHER WHO HAS NO PRINCIPLES!
THE BOOKWORM SECOND ELDEST BROTHER WHO DOES NOTHING BUT READ!
A BLOOD STAIN ON A VALUABLE BOOK...
I NEEDED SOMEONE SUITABLE LIKE HIM TO IDENTIFY MYSELF WITH.
ISN'T HE HEAVY?
SO SPLENDID~

KNOKK
?
.....
OUCH"


PISH... HE'S GONE ALREADY.
NO MATTER HOW BAD MY SLEEPING HABITS ARE
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT THE TABLE
MY NAME IS NICOLE AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED I'M A BOY BUT THANKS TO MY SISTER WHO LEFT HER PRINCE AT THE ALTAR, I WAS COERCED TO MARRY IN HER PLACE DISGUISED AS A MAIDEN
KNOCK KNOCK.
ARE YOU AWAKE, PRINCESS?
YES.

DROPPED BY OUT OF BOREDOM

HUH? BUT...
OH, MY MISTAKE!
JEDI?
ARE YOU GOING "SOMEWHERE" YOUR HIGHNESS?
THAT'S FINE. PREPARE MY HORSE.
YES, SIRE.
I'M GOING TO PATROL THE BORDER TO LOOK FOR MORE INVADING HOARDS.
WHAM..
WILL IT TAKE LONG?

WELL... PROBABLY ABOUT LIKE THE LAST TIME.
-? LIKE THE LAST TIME? THE TIME WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU WERE GONE OR NOT?
MY LADY, WISH ME A SAFE JOURNEY.
BE GOOD. BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET CAUGHT.

.....
JED!
TA DA DA
TAKE ME WITH YOU!

I WANT TO GO, TOO.
LOOK, I'M NOT GOING THERE TO HAVE FUN. IT WILL BE TRYING AND IT MAY EVEN BE DANGEROUS.
.....
.....

SO,
YOU TWO ARE GOING TOGETHER?
YES, PRINCESS. GOOD-BYE AND TAKE GOOD-
GUESS THAT WON'T HAPPEN
GOOD-BYE, REINY
YES, BROTHER. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
.....

HOW LONG IS IT TO THE BORDER?
ABOUT A DAY AND A HALF SINCE I HAVE A PIECE OF LUGGAGE.
.....
BUT STILL
LUGGAGE
SUCH REPULSIVE SIBLINGS!
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT. JED,

HE FEELS THAT MUCH FARTHER
EVEN WHEN I'M THIS CLOSE TO HIM
I THOUGHT HE WASN'T MAD AT ME ANYMORE. DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG AGAIN?
COME TO THINK OF IT I EVEN LET HIM KISS ME TWICE
WELL, BOTH TIMES TOOK ME BY SURPRISE SO
DARN IT! FORGET IT! IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING AT ALL! I JUST HAVE TO FOCUS ON HOW IT FEELS TO BE TOGETHER!
SWING
SWING
?
HUH!

CLIK CLOP
CLIK CLOP
CLIK CLOP
CLIK CLOP
.....
MAYBE I REALLY SHOULD'VE STAYED BEHIND? MMMMM I FEEL NAUSEOUS
CLIK CLOP
I'M HUNGRY
AND MY THIGHS ARE THROBBING
NOW, LET'S REST HERE TONIGHT.
!
IT MAY LOOK SHABBY BUT IT'LL KEEP US FROM THE MORNING CHILL.

ANYTHING~!! WHATEVER GETS ME OFF OF THIS HORSE!
NAH, IT LOOKS SPLENDID!!
I THOUGHT YOU'D GET EXHAUSTED AND TURN AROUND BY MIDDAY.
YOU DID BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.
GOOD JOB.

YEAH
HEE I DO LIKE THIS PERSON

WOW! I CAN SEE THE SKY.
JUST HURRY UP AND BRING THE FIREWOOD.
YEAH, HERE.
YOU'RE REALLY USED TO THIS, HUH?

WELL, I SPENT MORE TIME AT THE SOLDIERS' CAMPSITE THAN AT THE CASTLE.
I THINK YOU FIT IN BETTER THAN THE ODD CROWN PRINCE (WITH A STRANGE TASTE).
...
FOR THE FUTURE KING.

!
ACH! DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG, AGAIN?
CAN'T I EVEN JUST TALK? I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.
NAW~ WHAT CAN I DO?
TH—WAP
THE SOUP'S READY.
Y...YOU SCARED ME! DON'T MAKE A SCENE LIKE THAT OVER NOTHING!
— WHEN YOU HAVE A FRIGHTENING FACE ALREADY!
WE SHOULD TAKE IT OFF THE FLAME NOW.

CRACK
CRACK!
YOU'RE WRONG NICOLE
HE'S A MAN WHO CAN SLASH MY THROAT ANYTIME

IF I WRIGGLE MYSELF UP AT ALL!
HE WOULD NEED A CLEAR REASON TO DISPOSE OF ME PUBLICLY AND LEGALLY.
THAT'S WHY
I CAN'T HAVE MORE
TO PROTECT, THAN I HAVE TO NOW

FOR A LITTLE WHILE
FOR A VERY LITTLE WHILE
I THOUGHT I COULD HAVE JUST ONE MORE-.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, NANNY?
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! LOOK WHO'S HERE?! IS IT NOT PRINCE GLEWHIN?

PRINCESS ELENA'S BROTHER IS VISITING US?
OH, NO. THE COUPLE IS AWAY.
WELL, WELL! I GOT MYSELF INTO A TERRIBLE DILEMMA RUSHING AND NOT SENDING PRIOR NOTICE.
I SHOULD'VE STOPPED HER..

PRINCE JED!
EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING WELL?
OF COURSE!
AND WHO IS YOUR COMPANION?

MY BRIDE! I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE HER ALONE AT THE CASTLE. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
BOO~
YOU ARE A HENPECKED HUSBAND, PRINCE JED!
THIS JERK~ WHAT A HYPOCRITE
ESCORT HER TO HER TENT.
CERTAINLY, RIGHT THIS WAY.
WHAT IS THE PROGRESS ON MY DIRECTIVES?
HERE.

WERE YOU PRESENTED TO HIS HIGHNESS?
OH, YES.
ARE THEY THE CROWN PRINCESS AND THE OTHER PRINCESS? I GUESS IT MAKES THEM THE OFFICIAL LADIES OF THE CASTLE SINCE THERE IS NO QUEEN.
WE'VE PREPARED TONIGHT'S FEAST.
WE HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE US IF IT'S NOT TO YOUR LIKING. WE WERE NOT EXPECTING COMPANY.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLOGIZE FOR VISITING WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
SPLENDID

NONSENSE.

.....

THEN, WE'LL SEE YOU SHORTLY.
YES.

DAMN
SHE'S
EXACTLY MY
TYPE!
?
?
GRIN
WHAT?
WHAT'S WITH THAT KID?
DID SHE JUST
LAUGH AT ME?

GRAB
WELL IT WAS MY IDEA TO COME WITH HIM

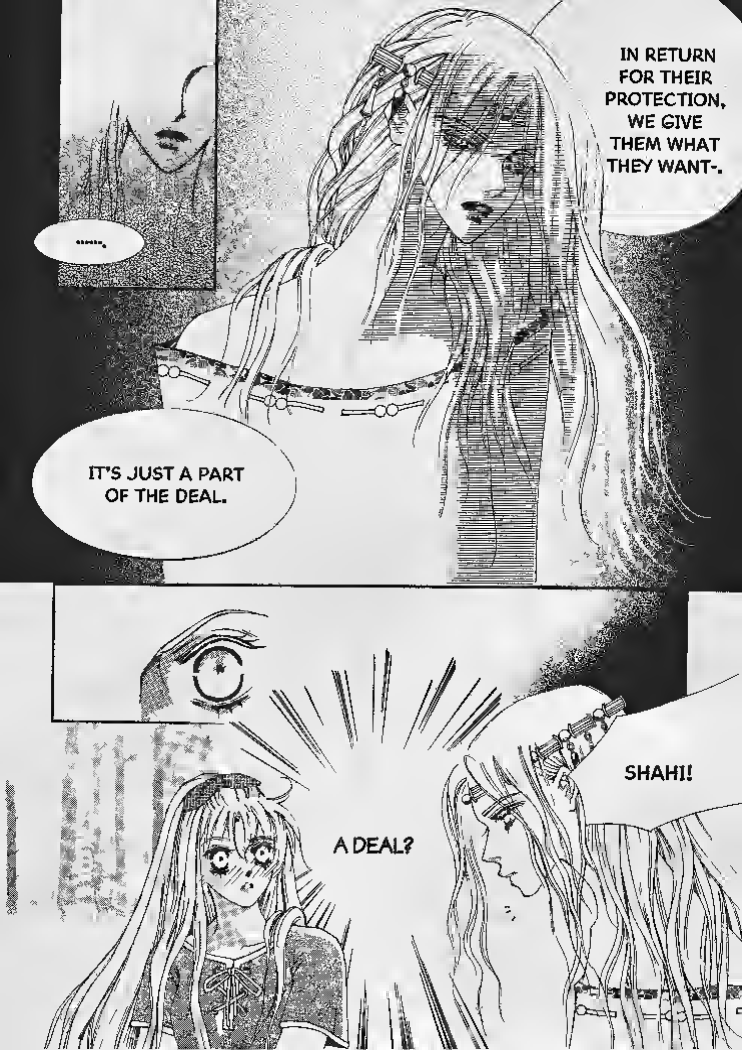
I'LL HAVE TO PLAY BY MYSELF
THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS FOREST
IT IS EERILY QUIET AND THAT FOG
KERPLASH
KERPLASH
WATER?

!

WHY
AGAIN
WHY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?
I CAME FOR SOME HERBS THAT I NEEDED.
MY TRIBE'S DWELLING PLACE IS NEAR HERE.

OH?
IF IT'S NEAR HERE, IT IS WITHIN THE BORDER..
.....
YES, YOU CAN SAY WE'RE BEING PROTECTED.
HE'S REALLY GORGEOUS
HAIR LIKE A SILVERY COBWEB

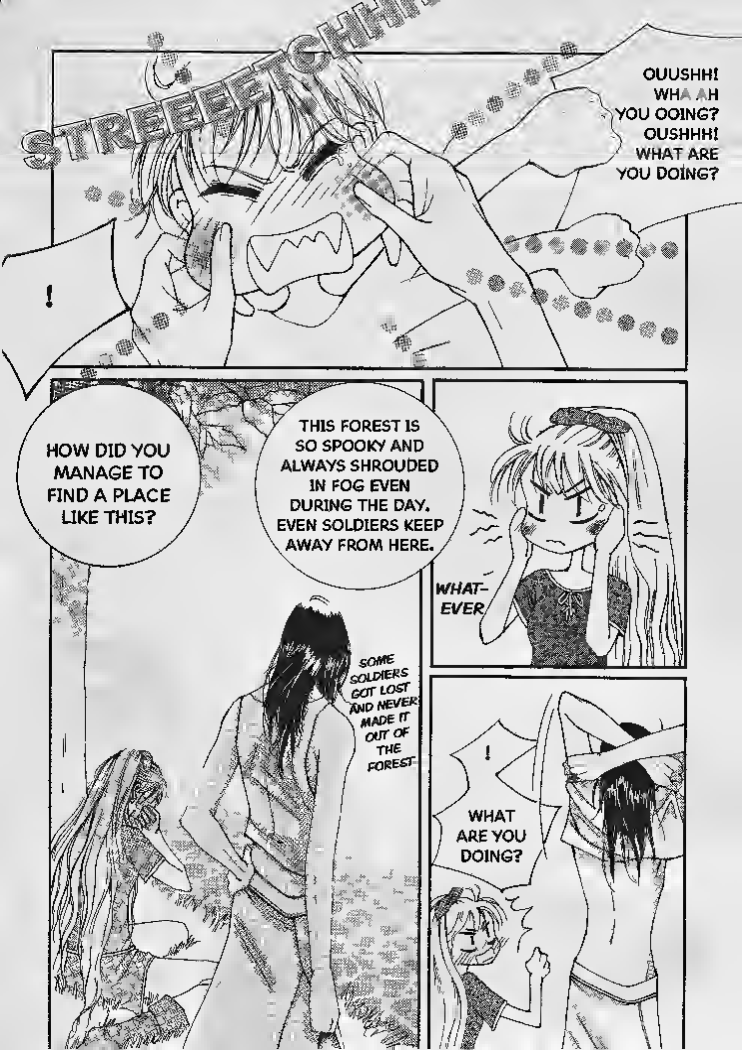
UNEARTHLY EYES ASHEN AND BLUE
NOSE LIPS SLENDER NECK
NECK?
BLUSH
!
?
UMM... CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHNG?
WHY... DID YOU... WITH THE C... CROWN PRINCE...


IN RETURN FOR THEIR PROTECTION, WE GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT-.
.....
IT'S JUST A PART OF THE DEAL.
SHAHI!
A DEAL?

?
!
PRINCESS REINY?
MOTHER'S CALLING FOR YOU.
N... NO. THEY LOOK ALIKE BUT THIS ONE SEEMS OLDER. WHAT'S GOING ON?
UNTIL THE NEXT TIME THEN.

.....
DAZED ~
SLIIK
WHAT IS THIS... IT FEELS LIKE I WAS DREAMING...
THWAP
!
AHHH H~
.....!!

HEY, CALM DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
.....
PISH. SO YOU SOMEHOW FIGURED OUT THAT I WAS MISSING?
.....
WHAT?


STREEEETCHHH
!
OUUSHH!
WHA AH
YOU OOING?
OUSHHH!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THIS FOREST IS SO SPOOKY AND ALWAYS SHROUDED IN FOG EVEN DURING THE DAY. EVEN SOLDIERS KEEP AWAY FROM HERE.
SOME SOLDIERS GOT LOST AND NEVER MADE IT OUT OF THE FOREST.
WHAT-EVER
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHILE THERE'S WATER
PLUNK
COME ON. IT'S REFRESHING.

.....
.....
.....
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
.....
WHAT ARE YOU EMBARRASSED ABOUT?

.....
.....
AKK! JED!!

YOU JUST WAIT!
A WATER BEETLE!
PA PAA PA PA

PRINCE JED!
ARE YOU HERE?!
!
WE'RE TOO FAR FROM OUR CLOTHES!

PRINCE JED!
?
!
.....!

!
DAMN JED~will YOU SHOCKED ME
DUNNO WHY HE BROUGHT HIS WIFE ALONG!!

I CAN'T BREATHE~!!
HE'S GONE...
?
JED?
LET'S GO.
WAIT UP, JED!
...IS HE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING?

DAZED~
GOING DOWN!
BOY, THEY DON'T EVEN TAKE A BREAK.
PRINCE JEDI WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF YOU LEAVE THE PRINCESS LIKE THAT, OR LEAVE HER IN THE CASTLE AND FEEL BAD?
ALL ALONE
.....

EEP HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY
WHY IS SHE...IT'S DANGEROUS
THUMP
THUMP
IS HE FEELING OK TODAY?

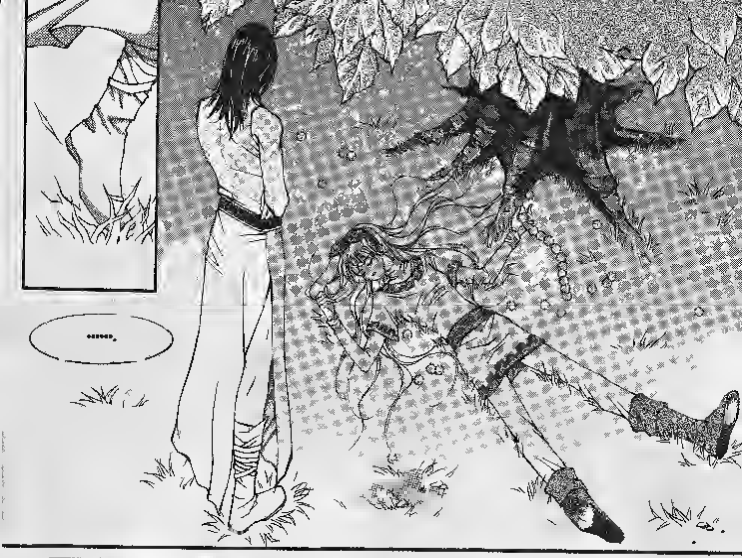
STRANGE IS HER...
O INDEED A HONEYMOON COUPLE'S DIFFERENT
YOU ARE GOING TO ACCOMPANY ME?

YES.
.....
OFFERING TO ACCOMPANY ME?
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN BUT I THINK I'LL WAIT FOR MY SISTER HERE A LITTLE LONGER.
I'M "OFFERING" TO COME WITH YOU SINCE YOU INSIST ON SEEING PRINCESS ELENA, AND I WANT TO SEE MY BROTHER..

?
THE ELDEST PRINCE OF A KINGDOM HAS TOO MUCH TIME ON HIS HANDS. WHAT I MEAN IS ---
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO INCONVENIENCE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE?
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST TELL ME THE LOCATION-? ACCOMPANYING A FRAGILE AND NOBLE LADY BURDENS AND WORRIES ME. YOUR MAJESTY WILL BE WORRIED AS WELL.
THEN.
.....
GUSH
GUSH
WHO THE HELL IS THIS KID SCARES ME

WELL, WELL~ PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
WE MAY BE FAMILY NOW THANKS TO A POLITICAL MARRIAGE, BUT WE WERE ONCE ENEMIES. THEREFORE
I CAN'T POSSIBLY HAND OVER A MAP THAT GIVES AWAY OUR BORDER DEFENSE POSITIONS, NOT TO OUR AMBIGUOUS ALLY PRINCE, CAN I?
BUT IF I ACCOMPANY YOU, IT WILL LOOK LIKE A FAMILY DELEGATION
AND IT PROVIDES AN EXCUSE FOR AN OBVIOUS GUILE.
.....!

WHAT A VICIOUS KID IF
SHE WERE A MAN
IF YOU WOULD DO THAT, I'D BE THANKFUL, BUT WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU, PRINCESS?
SHE WOULD'VE BEEN A HELP TO PRINCE JED.
A TRIP TAKEN ALONE BY THE TWO OF THEM I REALLY CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN!
HE NEVER TOOK ME WITH HIM...
.....
?
I'LL MAKE SURE TO TAG ALONG AND GET BETWEEN THEM!
WHAT THE..?
NICOLE... YOU MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH HELL.
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW!!
BUT STILL WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO SKIPPING ALONG LIKE A CHILD?
HUMF HA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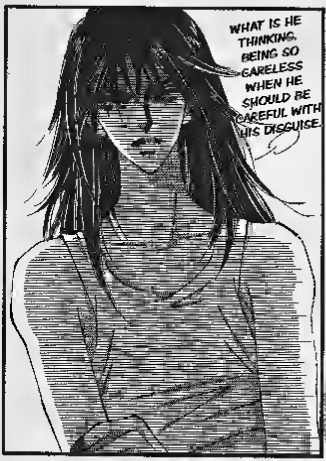
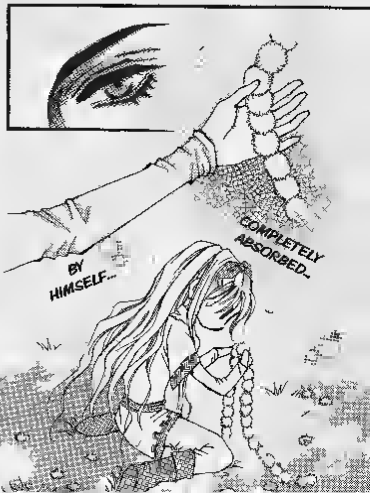
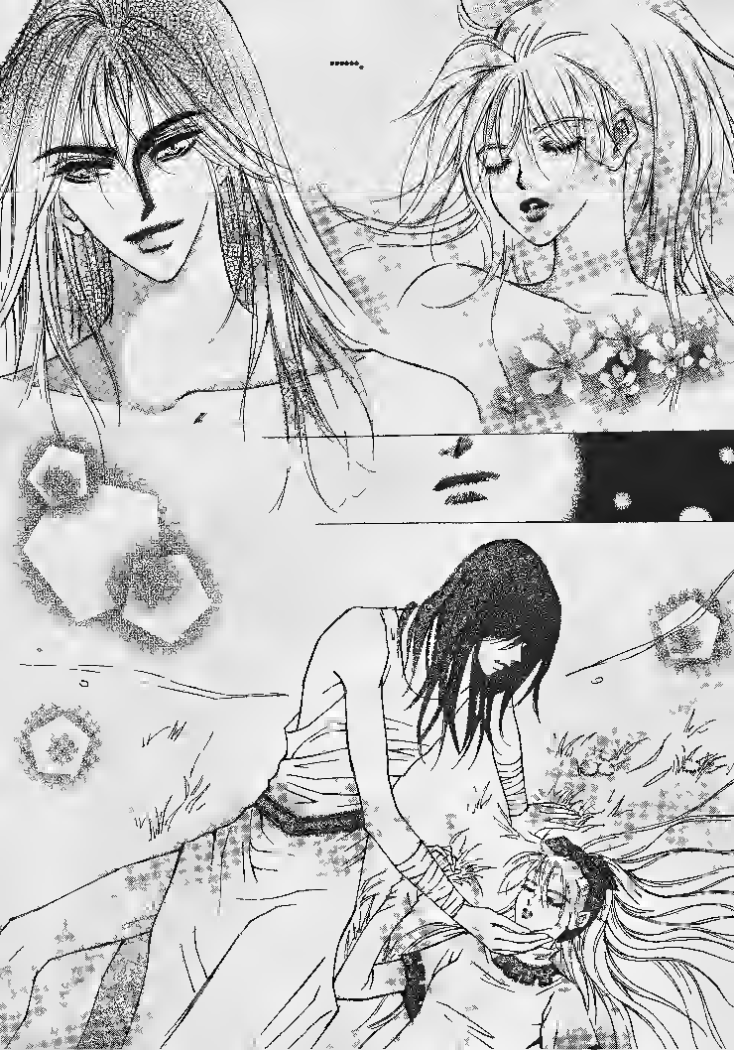
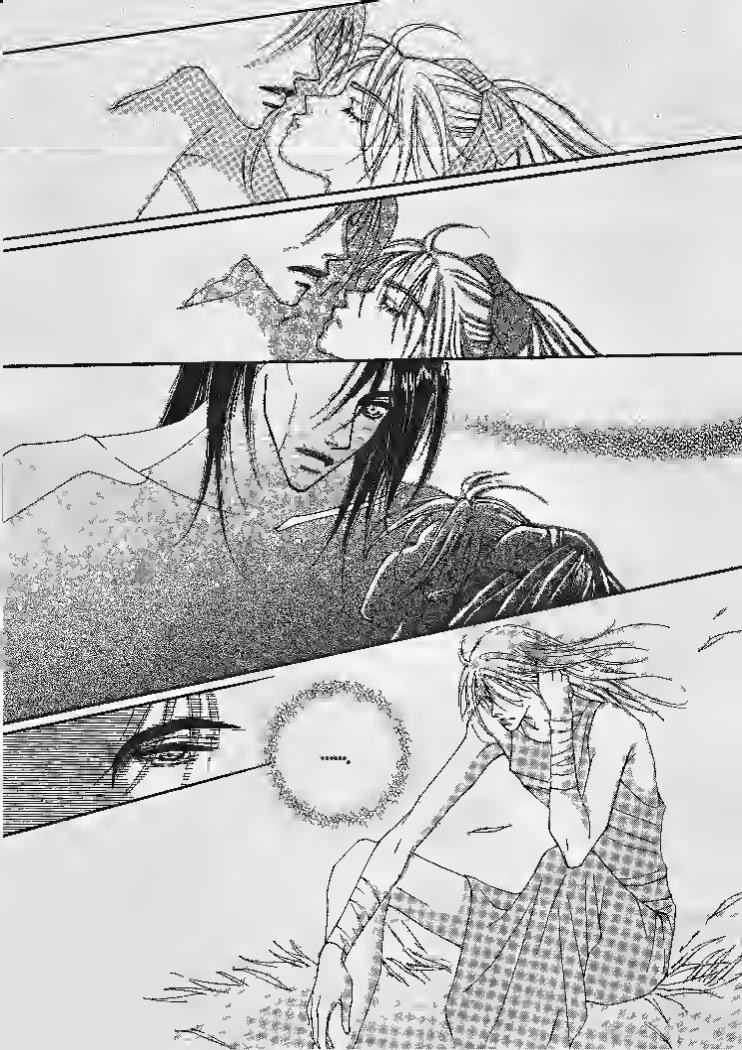

WHAT IS HE THINKING. BEING SO CARELESS WHEN HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH HIS DISGUISE.


COMPLETELY ABSORBED...
BY HIMSELF...

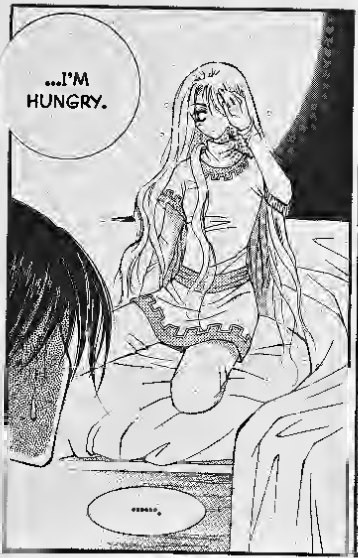




ERGH...
...HOT
?
?
?
?
.....
DETACHED SHALE
ROLL
BY NOW, EVERYONE SHOULD BE OCCUPIED WITH DIGGING THE WATER-WAY SO-

SMACK
.....
.....

... JED.


...I'M HUNGRY.
.....

THE KID SUKE REMAINS TRUE TO HIS INSTINCT
WAIT.

CHEEP? (WHY?)
.....

I THINK YOU SHOULD HEAD BACK FIRST BY YOURSELF.
WHAT?

IT LOOKS LIKE DIGGING UP THIS WATERWAY WILL TAKE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT. I NEED TO GET EXTRA WORKERS, TOO.
SO, I CAN JUST STAY WHERE I AM!
NO, YOU'RE TOO DISTRACTING.
DISTRACT? HOW?
AND WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF SIGHT, I CAN'T CONCENTRATE.
WHEN YOU ARE AROUND, YOUR CEASELESS STARING BEHIND MY BACK DISTRACTS ME.

PSH!
SO SENSITIVE.
BUT STILL I AM NOT CONVINCED. SOMETHING ABOUT THE TONE OF HIS VOICE...
BY THE WAY,
THERE'S A LAKE UP THERE, TOO. WHY INSIST ON BRINGING THE WATER FROM AFAR?
THAT LAND IS CONTRACTED TO THE HEROTS AND WE DON'T HAVE A CLAIM TO IT.
CONTRACTED?

THE HEROTS HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT FOR HEALING. THEY CAN TREAT JUST ABOUT ANY ILLNESS.
I KNOW NOT WHY BUT THEY WERE HOMELESS, SO WE GAVE THEM A PLACE TO SETTLE AND IN RETURN THEY CURE OUR ILLNESSES.
THEN THE LADY I SAW IN THE FOREST IS ALSO A HEROT. SHE WAS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF PRINCESS REINY.

BY CHANCE...
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER YOUNGER SISTERS BESIDES PRINCESS REINY?
MAYBE SHE WAS SO ILL THAT YOU LEFT HER WITH THE HEROTS TU HEAL HER?
?
OF COURSE NOT. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
NO.. NOTHING.
SO...
WHEN CAN WE DEPART, PRINCESS REINY?

I AM VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT WHERE I SLEEP. I CAN'T SLEEP IN THE OPEN, YOU KNOW.
SHOULD NOT I BE FULLY PREPARED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, REBUILDING A CASTLE ON THE ROAD?
PLUS I NEED A COOK, SERVANTS, MAIDS, AND...THEN-.
NICOLE, YOU LITTLE! JUST WAIT UNTIL I SEE YOU-.
I CAN'T GO BACK SINCE I NEED TO SEE PRINCE JED ANYWAYS !
.....
GOSH SHE IS A REAL PRINCESS
COULD WE EVEN MAKE IT THERE.
STAGGER

JED!
WHY ARE YOU NOT LYING NEXT TO ME?
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME TO LEAVE TOMORROW? THEN TONIGHT'S THE LAST NIGHT AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEND IT WITH ME?
YEAH, MY SLEEPING HABITS ARE AWFUL, BUT YOU CAN'T PUT UP WITH THEM FOR JUST ONE NIGHT?
JED~! I'M YOUR WIFE! I MAY BE A SUBSTITUTE BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO INDIFFERENT?
SO MUCH FOR THE LAST NIGHT WITH YOUR WIFE?!
I'M BORED, YOU KNOW!
.....

PISH-. IF I PLEADED WITH MY BROTHERS THIS MUCH, THEY WOULD'VE LISTENED TO ME LONG AGO-.
YOU'RE ALL OUT OF LOVE. HUH?
O. NOW YOU ARE GOING TO PLAY WITH ME?
SHHK
JED?

JED?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS FRIGHTENING STRENGTH MY WRIST HURTS
BUT WHAT'S SCARIER IS
JED'S FACE

BROTHERS?...
IF I WERE YOUR BROTHER, NICOLE.
I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS-.

YOU...
YOU'RE SCARING ME, JED!
.....
...OKK...

NOW YOU KNOW.
WHY I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOUR BROTHERS-.
NO
SO DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME LIKE THAT
NO, JED. I DON'T KNOW.

DON'T
DON'T GO JED!
.....
...DON'T JUST TURN YOUR BACK ON ME LIKE THAT. IF YOU EXPLAINED IT TO ME STEP BY STEP
THEN I WOULD UNDERSTAND JED

WHAT DID I DO WRONG WHY ARE YOU MAD AT ME-
IT'S UNLIKE ME TO LASH OUT AT A KID...
JUST HOW MANY TIMES WAS IT-
I REALLY CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.

GO AND WAIT IN MY KINGDOM?
YES, THE GUARDS OVER THERE WILL ESCORT YOU SAFELY.
UM.
WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE? YOU TOLD ME TO GO BACK TO THE PALACE, NO?
WHERE IS PRINCE JED?

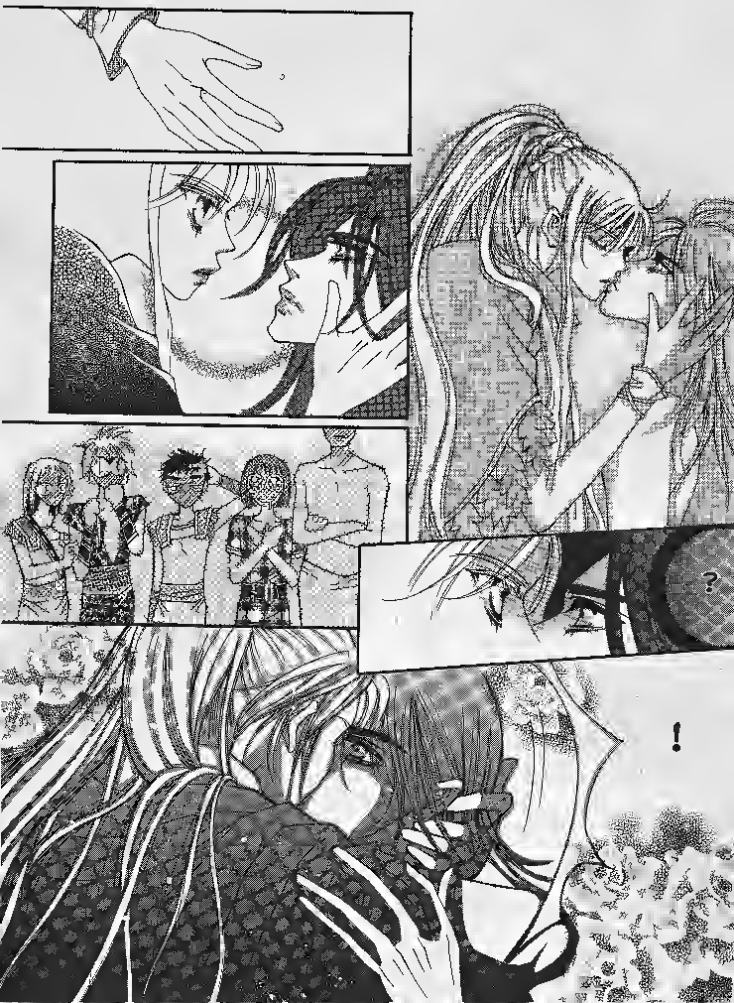
HE WENT TO SURVEY THE TERRAIN, BUT HE SHOULD BE BACK SOON.
OH! HERE HE COMES!
PRINCE JED!
...IS HE ALRIGHT?
HE WENT OUT LIKE THAT LAST NIGHT AND DIDN'T COME BACK...
DID HE EVEN GET ANY SLEEP...
PRINCE JED! THE PRINCESS IS DEPARTING.

ALWAYS I THOUGHT I WANTED TO BE LIKE HIM.
.....
WHY ARE WE GROWING APART SO QUEERLY LIKE THIS?

YOUR KINGDOM IS NOT FAR FROM HERE SO PLEASE GO AHEAD OF ME AND REST THERE.
I WILL FOLLOW IN A FEW DAYS AS SOON AS THE WORK HERE IS COMPLETED.
...I WILL. I'LL BE OFF NOW.
HUH? THAT'S IT?

BOOOOO
PRINCE JED! YOU SHOULD AT LEAST KISS THE PRINCESS GOOD-BYE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
BOOOOO
KISS HER!!
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PUT OUT?
RAGE
I DON'T LIKE IT
?
...WILL YOU GRANT ME

A FAREWELL KISS, PRINCESS?
HE...
HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME! ON PURPOSE, KNOWING THAT I CAN'T DO IT-!
SUCH A ROTTEN PERSONALITY



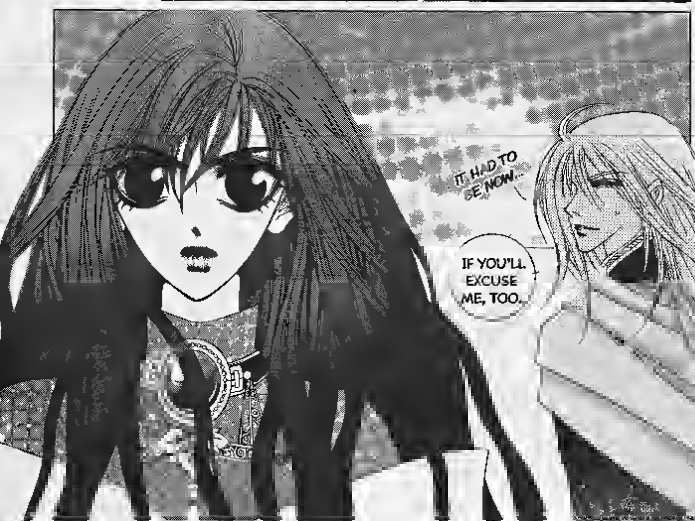
DRIP
I'LL GO AHEAD AND WAIT FOR YOU THEN!
THAT'S FOR MAKING ME SUFFER
YOU'RE THE COOLEST PRINCE-SS! FAREWELL!

I'M TOO EXHAUSTED TO GO ANY FARTHER. LET'S REST HERE FOR THE DAY.
GIVEN UP
OF COURSE, PRINCESS.
(DOESN'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL.)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALONE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
...AHH.
?

GREAT...
EEP
!
PRINCESS

.....O


IT HAD TO BE NOW...
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, TOO.

PERVERT.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN FILTHIER.
SHE'S JUST A KID
CALM DOWN
CALM DOWN
I DON'T WANT YOU JUDGING MY PERSONAL LIFE, PRINCESS, BUT-

I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE BEAUTIFUL THINGS
AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING TO ME IS THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES.
-HA!
IT'S NOT THE WORST EXCUSE TO JUSTIFY YOUR UNPRINCIPLED LUST.
BUT IT'S NO MORE THAN A COWARDLY SELF-JUSTIFICATION OF A CLANSMEN WHO HAVE A YEAR-LONG MATING SEASON.

YEAR-LONG...
AH, YES...
DOES THIS KID HAVE ANY FILTER BETWEEN HER MIND AND HER MOUTH...
I COULD DIE OF OVER BLEEDING IF I TRY TO KEEP UP WITH HER-
BUT.
?
THERE COULD BE AN EXCEPTION.

IF YOU ARE IN LOVE-.
.....
THAT'S KNOWN AS A GIRL'S DREAM COME TRUE.
.....

ELENA!
BRO... BROTHER!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS GONNA SAY THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
POW
WHERE IS GLEWHIN?
STILL GOT THE TEMPER.
...NICOLE.
?

THIS VOICE IT CAN'T BE ?
SISA!
YOU CAME BACK?

THE END
To be continued in volume 2 available April 2006.